
Guiding Fundamentals, and Policy Support

Section 4

City of Kenmore Park, Recreation and
Open Space Plan

Guiding Fundamentals and Policy Support

The four Guiding Fundamentals provide the overarching policy direction, as they affect all aspects of park and recreation service development and delivery. The seven Goals represent the results Kenmore strives to attain and the related objective and policy actions provide the actions to accomplish the goals. Four distinct activities: 1) Acquisition, Development and Renovation; 2) Stewardship; 3) Financial Considerations; and, 4) Planning and Partnerships relate to attaining the goals leading to a viable and balanced park and recreation system.

Guiding Fundamentals

There are Guiding Fundamentals:

- Principal Condition
- Key Values
- Major Issues
- Opportunities

Principal Condition

The city's **natural environment** is the "Principal Condition" affecting the delivery of parks, recreation and open space. It also affects the city's economic and residential development. In Kenmore the natural environment consists of a system of interconnected wildlife habitat and corridors, ravines, woodlands, wetlands, streams, the Sammamish River, and Lake Washington.

Key Values, Issues and Opportunities

Key values are what Kenmore residents identify as qualities for its community that are intrinsically valuable or desirable. The following key values, issues and opportunities surfaced as common themes throughout the public involvement process:

Key Values

1. **Stewardship** - Stewardship is a value embodying responsible planning and management of resources. This concept applies not only to physical but also financial resources. Finding efficient and cost effective methods for the acquisition and development of park lands through seeking grant funding assistance and partnering is a key value of the Plan. In addition, promoting habitat and natural resource conservation, through acquisition, conservation, preservation, and rehabilitation of important natural areas and development of interpretive education programs is critical to preserving the natural character of Kenmore. Further, providing consistent ongoing high quality maintenance of parks and facilities is vital to ensuring the protection of parks and facilities as essential public assets. Stewardship also implies an informed and well intentioned relationship with park neighbors and adjacent residents within the context of the needs expressed within the PROS Plan.
2. **Balance** - A park and recreation system should provide a diversity of park and recreation facilities, a balance of opportunities for both passive and active recreation including athletic fields and that balances the needs of different age groups, abilities, and interests.
3. **Community Image** - Positive community image is a source of civic pride that can be enhanced and improved by maintaining and beautifying public and other visually prominent areas. Providing public art in appropriate locations throughout the city, and utilizing unifying themes in design of public spaces, such as, but not limited to, entry, directional and interpretive signs, banners, streets and landscape design can contribute to a source of positive identity. Community image is also affected by the availability of desirable services.

Major Issues

1. Desire for improved public access to the Kenmore Waterfront - The city has over 7 miles of shoreline on Lake Washington and the Sammamish River. Public access to this asset is limited, especially within the city's central downtown core. Since the city's incorporation in 1998, this need for public water access has been identified by the community as a key issue to address.
2. Desire for local park and recreation services - Throughout the public process residents expressed a desire for more local services. These comments were not limited to recreation services, but also other services such as shopping and restaurants. The desire for indoor pools, more athletic fields and local recreation programs and services often represents a frustration of local residents having to travel outside the city to receive services. A key issue is assessing options for delivery of service as the city grows and what services the city can reasonably provide.

3. Desire for completing linkages and connections - Facilities that provide additional safe pedestrian and bicycle trails and linkages to form a network between parks, open spaces, neighborhoods and the waterfront are vital. Planning and design of pedestrian and bicycle linkages and connections should account for potential barriers and constraints to travel, such as arterials and topography.
4. Improving and diversifying park experiences - Enhancing and diversifying park experiences and improving customer service and park user convenience. Facilities such as restrooms, benches, and picnic shelters in new and/or existing parks, as well as facilities expanding recreational opportunities at existing waterfront parks such as non-motorized boating facilities, should be provided as funding allows.

Opportunities

1. Create a Kenmore “WaterWalk” to provide local residents access to the water forming a chain of open spaces, Waterfront and Linear Parks along the city’s central waterfront



Figure 4.1 Photo: example “WaterWalk”, and civic space

core on Lake Washington and the Sammamish River. Creating a “WaterWalk” and Waterfront master plan and a vision for this concept is vital to ensuring its reality and should be the highest priority of this plan. Public waterfront access is essential to transform not only the community image and opportunities for recreational access, but is also a vital component of economic revitalization and development.

Recognizing that the majority of the city’s central waterfront is not publicly owned, the city should pursue opportunities for public access when key properties on the central waterfront redevelop. In addition, the city should also pursue public acquisition of key waterfront parcels as a strategy to completing this vision.

Kenmore’s Sammamish River, with its slow current and protection from the wind is ideal for small watercraft, especially hand powered boats such as kayaks, paddle boards, and canoes. At the same time, Kenmore’s position on Lake Washington provides a wind-rich environment for sail boating, wind-surfing and kite boarding. These are outstanding opportunities and assets that the City can capitalize on by working to provide facilities that promote boating access, including moorage and boat storage, launch access, and gathering spaces for paddlers and boaters.

Completing existing waterfront parks according to their adopted master plans will also improve waterfront access.

2. Create a Central Civic Area and enhance the attractiveness and visual character of the city to aid in the continued establishment of civic identity and image, creating a central gathering place for residents, and retaining a small town “feel.” Providing for both passive and active forms of recreation in public spaces within the downtown core helps enhance the vitality of the city. The Kenmore Village Public Square/civic plaza and City Hall park projects enable the city to achieve public gathering space for both forms of recreation.
3. Developing a pedestrian and bicycle network - There is an opportunity to plan for and develop an interconnected network of pedestrian and bicycle facilities that contain a mix of off-street (Linear Parks), and on-street (sidewalks, bike lanes) that provide safe and efficient travel between key places within Kenmore, including parks, the downtown, the waterfront and neighboring cities. The planning and development of a continuous north-south route, perhaps utilizing portions of the Swamp Creek corridor could create a vital connection. Similarly, utilizing the Seattle Public Utilities corridor along the Tolt Pipeline could create an east-west route on the north side of SR522. Crossings of SR522 are critical connections to existing facilities, such as the Burke-Gilman trail, which connects Kenmore residents to its neighbors to the east and west.
4. Continuing and Developing Partnerships - City boundaries are not necessarily recognized by those residents participating in various forms of recreation. Consequently, residents in Kenmore might travel to our neighboring cities in Bothell, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park and Mountlake Terrace for recreation and park services. And likewise those communities’ residents might visit Kenmore as they seek to enjoy the services unique to Kenmore. Developing new and enhancing existing partnerships should be continued. Coordinating planning efforts with Lake Forest Park, Northshore Utility District, Seattle Public Utilities, King County, Northshore School District, Bastyr University, State Parks and neighboring cities and other public, commercial, and non-profit agencies in the mutual use and development of park and recreation facilities should continue.



Figure 4.2 Photo: Off-Leash Area

5. Providing and developing more land for active recreation activities - Acquiring and developing land to provide open areas or sport courts where youth and adults can play informal games, as well as providing space for social gathering places that promote a sense of community building is also important, whether they are larger central civic places or smaller areas, such as off-leash dog parks or community gardens. A big challenge for Kenmore is the need for land sufficient in size to accommodate an additional Community Park that provides a variety of active recreational pursuits, including athletic fields. Kenmore’s natural environment

plays a significant role limiting this opportunity, as does the lack of vacant land. Nevertheless, Kenmore should continue to examine opportunities within its current parks or when land is acquired (e.g., Twin Springs) to assemble enough property for one more community park or partner with another agency to provide the land necessary to accommodate the facilities that would be commonly placed in a community park. Accomplishing this opportunity would help address Kenmore residents' desire to "stay-local" for park and recreation services.

Policy Support

Goals, Objectives and Policy Actions

The Goals, Objectives and Policy Actions continue the path to the Recommendations section of the Plan. Goals continue to provide the "broad direction" represented by the Guiding Fundamentals, while the Objectives and the Policy Actions describe the detail or implementing strategies of the Plan.

Goals: The seven goals represent the results that Kenmore strives to attain and provide broad direction related to the delivery of park, recreation and open space within the city.

Objectives and Policy Actions: Objectives are the means to accomplishing the broad goals. The policy actions are the specific activities identified to accomplish the goals and their associated objectives.

Four distinct activities occur within the context of all Goals, Objectives and Policy Actions. These activities are specifically related to the implementation of a healthy, viable and balanced Park and Recreation system for Kenmore, and include:

- Acquisition and Development **(A/D)**
 - These activities generally represent the capital investment component to the Plan and the associated mechanisms and methods for accomplishment.
- Stewardship **(S)**
 - These activities relate to the conduct of care, renovation and management of public park facilities.
- Financial Considerations **(FC)**
 - These activities ensure that financial resources are available and identified to accomplish capital projects and their associated ongoing operational requirements.
- Planning and Partnerships **(PP)**

- These activities make certain appropriate planning is undertaken prior to the implementation of projects or services, and efficiencies are gained by appropriate partnership opportunities.

Goal P-1 Create a Kenmore Waterfront Strategy and Master Plan that includes identification and development of a “Kenmore WaterWalk” and other recreational opportunities and integrates consistently with city’s economic development plans. (PP)

Objective P-1.1 Establish and implement plans, development policies, regulations and incentives to provide more public access; retain views and recreational opportunities to the waterfront and shoreline in conjunction with private and public development. (A/D) (PP) (FC)

- Policy 1.1.1 Retain consulting assistance and conduct a public process to identify the potential location for the WaterWalk and a chain of waterfront spaces for recreation consistent with public waterfront use, resulting in an adopted Waterfront Master Plan.
- Policy P-1.1.2 Reconnect public access via replacement of the pedestrian bridge between the marina and Log Boom Park. **(A/D)**
- Policy P-1.1.3 Identify and retain important public access and view corridors to Lake Washington and the Sammamish River. **(S) (PP)**
- Policy P-1.1.4 Adopt and regularly update and implement master plans for the city’s waterfront parks that define public access and recreational experiences and connections to the waterfront and shoreline. **(A/D) (PP)**
- Policy 1.1.5 Adopt development regulations and incentives that are consistent with and further the implementation of the Waterfront Master Plan

Objective P-1.2 Identify and prioritize undeveloped or underdeveloped waterfront properties in the city’s central core for consideration of public acquisition, joint development, partnership and other mechanisms essential to the creation of a continuous Kenmore “WaterWalk”. (A/D)(FC) (PP)

- Policy P-1.2.1 Inventory and identify public and private parcels from Log Boom Park to Rhododendron Park. **(PP)**

- Policy P-1.2.2 Identify specific opportunities for joint development, partnership and other options for implementing the “WaterWalk”.

Goal P-2 Create an interconnected system of Linear Parks, sidewalks, bike routes and safe crossings linking and improving access to the downtown, waterfront, parks, and public spaces within Kenmore and with neighboring cities. (A/D) (PP)

Objective P-2.1 Identify and prioritize key connections between the downtown, waterfront, parks and public spaces. (PP)

- Policy P-2.1.2 Prepare a sidewalk, trail, and bicycle plan that creates a non-motorized trail network connecting downtown, the waterfront, parks and public facilities and neighboring cities. **(PP)**
- Policy P-2.1.2.1 Identify and create opportunities to provide connections to linkages in adjoining cities. **(A/D) (PP)**
- Policy P-2.1.2.2 Consider viewpoints, view corridors, easements, bikeways when looking for connections and linkages when reviewing public and private development proposals. **(PP)**
- Policy P-2.1.2.3 Plan and develop an off-road north-south trail connection utilizing the Swamp Creek corridor as appropriate. **(A/D) (PP)**
- Policy P-2.1.2.4 Acquire easements to extend and develop the Tolt Pipeline Trail linking to adjoining cities. **(A/D) (FC)(PP)**
- Policy P-2.1.2.5 Establish and implement development regulations and incentives as allowable by law for new development to provide public access along these corridors to provide these links. **(A/D) (S) (FC) (PP)**
- Policy P-2.1.3 Seek external funding sources to support public access and recreational opportunities. **(S) (FC)**

Goal P-3 Protect environmentally sensitive areas, including Nature Parks, and provide opportunities for restoration, enhancement and public access. (S)

Objective P-3.1 Provide a balance between habitat restoration, enhancement and public access. (S)

- Policy P-3.1.1 Identify opportunities to provide scenic views of, or appropriate public access to, environmentally sensitive areas, and provide educational information. **(S)**
- Policy P-3.1.1.1 Establish and implement development regulations and incentives as allowable by law to provide responsible levels of public access and protection to environmentally sensitive areas in conjunction with private and public development. **(A/D) (S) (FC) (PP)**
- Policy P-3.1.2 Adopt, regularly update and implement master plans for the city's nature parks that define the balance between habitat restoration, enhancement and public access. **(A/D) (S)**
- Policy P-3.1.2.1 Update and complete implementation of the Wallace Swamp Creek Master Plan including stream bank and habitat restoration. **(A/D) (PP)**
- Policy P-3.1.2.2 Update, adopt and complete implementation of the master plan for Squire's Landing Park and continue habitat and riparian corridor restoration. **(A/D) (PP)(S)**
- Policy P-3.1.3 Seek funding sources to support efforts for restoration, enhancement and public access. **(S) (FC)**
- Policy P-3.1.3.1 Develop a city-wide habitat conservation plan. **(S) (PP)**
- Policy P-3.1.3.2 Identify resource management agencies, citizens and other volunteer groups who can partner in providing stewardship of environmentally sensitive areas. **(S) (FC)**

Goal P-4 Preserve, develop, and enhance existing parks and similar city properties to provide a balance between passive and active recreation opportunities, acquire new parks where needed and appropriate and when resources are available. (A/D) (S) (FC)

Objective P-4.1 Identify and prioritize undeveloped or underdeveloped properties for consideration of public acquisition for active recreation including athletic fields. (A/D) (FC) (PP)

- Policy P-4.1.1 Complete development of city park sites with approved master plans as funding allows. **(A/D) (FC)**

- Policy P-4.1.1.1 Update the adopted Master Plan and complete development of Log Boom Park **(A/D) (PP)**
- Policy P-4.1.1.2 Update the adopted Master Plan and complete development of Moorlands Park. **(A/D) (PP)**
- Policy P-4.1.1.3 Upon acquisition of the Twin Springs property, develop, adopt, and implement a master plan and complete development of the park. **(PP)**
- Policy P-4.1.2 Acquire a parcel(s) sufficient and suitable for Community Park uses and consider utilizing mechanisms identified in policy P-4.4.3, in addition to fee simple acquisition. **(A/D) (FC) (PP)**
- Policy P-4.1.2.1 Assess the feasibility of developing the Twin Springs (Portal Park) site for community park-type purposes including an athletic field or fields. **(A/D) (PP) (FC)**
- Policy P-4.1.2.2 Consider acquisition of property for the purposes of locating athletic fields, a “community building” or social gathering place(s) such as, but not limited to, community gardens, “Town Green”, and a dog park. **(A/D)**

Objective P-4.2 Identify and prioritize undeveloped or underdeveloped properties for consideration of public acquisition for passive recreation. (A/D (FC) (PP)

- Policy P-4.2.1 Complete development of city park sites with approved master plans as funding allows. **(A/D) (FC)**
- Policy P-4.2.1.1 Update the adopted Master Plan and complete development of Log Boom Park **(A/D) (PP)**
- Policy P-4.2.1.2 Update the adopted Master Plan and complete development of Rhododendron Park. **(A/D) (PP)**
- Policy P-4.2.1.3 Update the adopted Master Plan and complete development of Wallace Swamp Creek Park. **(A/D)(S) (PP)**
- Policy P-4.2.1.4 Update the adopted Master Plan and Complete development of Northshore Summit Park in accordance with the adopted Master Plan. **(A/D)(PP)**
- Policy P-4.2.1.5 Upon acquisition of the Twin Springs property, develop, adopt and implement a master plan and complete development of the park.

Objective P-4.3 Identify and prioritize undeveloped or underdeveloped properties for consideration of public acquisition and seek opportunities to enhance the attractiveness and visual character of the city. (A/D (FC) (PP)

- Policy P-4.3.1 Develop downtown civic center spaces and a high quality, signature “town green” at Kenmore Village and City Hall Park to include Neighborhood and Community Park-like features such as open space, site furniture, play areas, and public art. **(A/D) (PP)**

Figure 4.3 Photo: example-civic plaza



- Policy P-4.3.2 Develop “gateways” that visually enhance key city entrances consistent with a unified design theme. **(A/D)**

Figure 4.4 Photo: Recreation opportunity



Objective P-4.4 Establish strategies and criteria for acquiring public park land. (A/D (FC) (PP)

- Policy P-4.4.1 Establish and regularly review and update a priority list and possible funding sources to determine park and open space acquisition, development and/or renovation. **(FC) (PP)**
- Policy P-4.4.2 Acquire lands that abut existing city or other publicly-owned park properties that provide the greatest value in augmenting and enhancing existing city parks. **(A/D) (FC)**
- Policy P-4.4.3 Use tools such as transfer of development rights, clustering development, development agreements, planned unit developments, easements, and public giving as alternatives to fee simple acquisition of park lands and open space. **(A/D) (FC) (PP)**
- Policy P-4.4.4 Utilize a programmatic approach and public engagement during the master plan process for all future city park land development. **(PP)**

Goal P-5 Support and leverage opportunities for providing a diverse range of quality, accessible and affordable recreation programs and activities to Kenmore residents of all ages and abilities. (FC) (PP)

Objective P-5.1 Encourage Kenmore residents to utilize existing public, non-profit, and private recreational programs and resources, and support the efforts of organizations that provide additional opportunities. (FC)

- Policy P-5.1.1 Publish and display information regarding recreation opportunities available through existing public, non-profit, and private organizations in city newsletter, web-page, and other marketing materials as appropriate. **(PP)**
- Policy P-5.1.2 Promote private recreational facilities within the city and ensure such uses are allowed in the zoning code, are encouraged and are consistent and complimentary with Kenmore’s desired levels of service for parks and recreation services. **(FC) (PP)**
- Policy P-5.1.3 Consider providing new facilities and facility upgrades to existing park lands to support new or existing recreation opportunities where appropriate. **(A/D)**
- Policy P-5.1.4 Support and enable the marketplace to identify potential gaps in the provision of recreational opportunities and define what role the city of Kenmore should assume in the process to respond to deficiencies. **(FC) (PP)**

Goal P-6 Provide high quality maintenance and stewardship of Kenmore parks and open spaces that are also safe and attractive to use. (S)

Objective P-6.1 Evaluate existing parks on a regular basis to ensure that they are consistent with respect to safety regulations and service trends. (S)

- Policy P-6.1.1 Develop an equipment replacement schedule for play equipment and site furniture and other similar recreational equipment and facilities and replace prior to reaching the end of their expected life cycle. **(S) (FC)**
- Policy P-6.1.2 Revise master plans as necessary to accommodate change in recreational use, trends, impacts or demands. **(S) (PP)**

- Policy P-6.1.3 Develop and install interpretive signage where appropriate in city parks to inform and educate about the value and function of environmentally sensitive areas, community history. **(A/D) (S)**
- Policy P-6.1.4 Conduct a park security review during the master plan process involving the Kenmore Police Department.

Objective P-6.2 Provide procedures, practices and resources to maintain and operate a quality park system. (S) (FC)

- Policy P-6.2.1 Establish and adopt park maintenance standards and practices for the Kenmore Park System. **(S)**
- Policy P-6.2.1.1 Conduct regular safety inspections of park facilities and correct any safety issues. **(S) (FC)**
- Policy P-6.2.1.2 Use equipment, landscaping and design that reduce long-term maintenance costs and increase safety for park users. **(S) (FC)**
- Policy P-6.2.1.3 Ensure that interagency maintenance agreements for the care of Kenmore parks are consistent with adopted city maintenance standards. **(S) (FC)**
- Policy P-6.2.2 Establish appropriate new policies governing operations and use of Kenmore Park facilities. **(S)**
- Policy P-6.2.3 Review and update the city's park use ordinance. **(S)**
- Policy P-6.2.4 Install park rules and regulation signs to inform and educate park users of appropriate use and conduct within Kenmore city parks. **(S)**
- Policy P-6.2.5 Use neighborhood and other organizational volunteers to supplement park maintenance levels, where appropriate. **(FC)**
- Policy P-6.2.5.1 Develop, adopt and implement a city-wide policy for the use of volunteers. **(PP) (S)**
- Policy P-6.2.5.2 Provide sufficient resources to support and manage approved volunteer efforts. **(FC) (S)**

Objective P-6.3 Maintain and update the City Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and conduct other appropriate master planning for Kenmore park and recreation service delivery. (S) (PP)

- Policy P-6.3.1 Conduct and prepare an inventory of public, non-profit, and private lands available for public recreation inside the Kenmore city limits. **(PP)**
- Policy P-6.3.2 Conduct a public involvement process to assess community attitudes regarding park and recreation needs and opportunities in Kenmore. **(PP)**
- Policy P-6.3.3 Conduct and prepare a demand-and-needs analysis for public parks and recreation needs in Kenmore. **(PP)**
- Policy P-6.3.4 Prepare level of service guidelines for Kenmore park lands. **(PP)**
- Policy P-6.3.5 Identify potential funding sources and strategies for implementing the Plan including goals, objectives and policy actions. **(FC) (PP)**
- Policy P-6.3.6 Prepare a six-year Capital Improvement Plan for parks and recreation facilities. **(FC) (PP)**
- Policy P-6.3.7 Ensure integration of the Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan with other city strategic plans.
- Policy P-6.3.8 Update the PROS Plan a minimum of every five years.

Objective P-6.4 Encourage multi-purpose and/or joint use of school, special district, government, non-profit and other similar agency facilities for civic, recreational, cultural and beautification activities. (FC) (PP)

- Policy P-6.4.1 Develop and execute joint facility use and maintenance agreements when appropriate with the Northshore School District, King County, State of Washington, Bastyr University, Northshore Parks and Recreation Service Area District, adjacent municipalities and others to maximize public use of existing public and or similar facilities. **(FC) (PP)**



Figure 4.5 Photo: Bastyr University ballfields

- Policy P-6.4.1.1 The athletic fields at Bastyr University represent the only sport field complex in Kenmore and their loss would be a significant impact upon recreation service delivery; consequently, the city should work cooperatively to extend the lease or acquire for community use of the athletic fields located on the Bastyr University site. **(PP) (FC)**
- Policy P-6.4.1.2 Secure easement for public recreational use of Seattle Public Utilities property for the Tolt Pipeline Trail. **(A/D) (FC) (PP)**
- Policy P-6.4.1.3 Work cooperatively with local jurisdictions to evaluate the need and the financial ability to construct and operate an indoor public pool facility, as Kenmore does not have the financial capacity to develop and operate such a facility on its own. **(PP) (FC)**
- Policy P-6.4.2 Seek partnerships to enhance opportunities for public recreation on existing public property **(A/D) (FC) (PP)**
- Policy P-6.4.3 Invite other local public agencies to participate in the preparation of Kenmore Park master plans. **(PP)**
- Policy P-6.4.4 Cooperate with the state and other regional park providers to establish and implement park master plans for their facilities that, to the greatest extent possible, are consistent with the City of Kenmore Vision Statement and Comprehensive Plan. **(A/D) (FC) (PP)**
- Policy P-6.4.5 Seek partnerships and cooperation to enhance the visual beauty and character of the city, including landscaping for street medians, landscape strips, expanding hanging basket programs, City's beautification programs and the installation of public art in appropriate locations. **(A/D) (FC) (PP)**

Goal P-7 Create a financially sustainable park and recreation system. (FC)

Objective P-7.1 Ensure sufficient resources are available prior to acquiring new land, developing or renovating park property or implementing new programs and events to sustain the resulting Kenmore park and recreation system. (A/D) (FC) (PP)

- Policy P-7.1.1 Consider long-term maintenance and operational costs in addition to the capital costs of park projects prior to proceeding with plans. **(S) (FC) (PP)**

- Policy P-7.1.1.1 Develop and prepare 6-year Capital Improvement Programs for parks identifying priorities, specific projects, and capital costs. **(A/D) (S) (FC) (PP)**
- Policy P-7.1.2 Identify and secure appropriate levels of funding to operate or support new city-sponsored recreational programs or facilities prior to making commitments to initiate and implement any new programs. **(FC) (PP)**
- Policy P-7.1.3 Utilize funding opportunities emphasizing a regional approach, such as coordinating, and/or partnering with special service districts. **(FC) (PP)**
- Policy P-7.1.4 Identify, and actively seek potential grant funding assistance from public and private sources for habitat restoration, acquisition, development and renovation of Kenmore park lands. **(A/D) (S) (FC) (PP)**
- Policy P-7.1.5 Require new development impacting park service delivery to pay its fair share of the costs of providing new park and recreation facilities. **(A/D) (FC)**

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